

Introduction

Who we are, and why it matters

By Rick Just, Editor,

Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review Supervisor

This is a government plan, not a magazine. Yet, some pages have a magazine look and feel. That is by design. I (a word seldom seen in plans) felt that the document might be of more interest, and reach more people, if it had an element of personality.

Plans are for people and by people. It is my privilege, and the privilege of many others, to be able to research, shape, and implement this plan. In doing so, we are attempting to speak for the citizens of Idaho; express their views about the future of our state. It is only fair that those citizens know who we are.

Typically in planning documents attribution is done only in a generic fashion at the front of the publication. The names of those producing the plan may be listed, but it is difficult to determine who wrote what. Sometimes this is simply a convenience when elements have been co-authored by many individuals, or are themselves so generic as to negate the need for attribution. There are a few such sections in this publication. Most major elements are attributed, though, to aid those who may wish to know more about the subject in contacting those most acquainted with it. Another reason for placing bylines on articles is accountability. Whether an author is expressing an opinion or simply reporting survey results, it is important that they take ownership of their words.

What about that word, “opinion?” Does it have a legitimate place in this sort of document? By its nature, a plan has an element of prediction. It is an envisioning of the future. How can anyone do so without expressing an opinion?

Even so, articles written to express a desired future, or predict an undesirable one are clearly separated from those offering descriptions or reporting methodology and statistics. They will be found in the section called “Visions, Issues, and Opportunities.”

We hope you will find this somewhat unconventional Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan useful, enlightening and even provocative.

Legal Authority

The legal authority for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan has been empowered to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board, through Idaho Code 67-4223 (f). The powers of the Park and Recreation Board include “prepare, maintain and keep up-to-date, a comprehensive plan for the development of the outdoor recreation resources of the state; to develop, operate and maintain outdoor recreation areas and facilities of the state; and to acquire lands, waters and interests in lands and waters for such areas and facilities.” Under Section (g), the Board is further empowered to “Apply to any appropriate agency or officer of the United States for participation in or the receipt of aid from any federal program respecting outdoor recreation.” With the passage of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-578; 78 Stat. 897) funds were made available to the states for the “planning, acquisition and development of needed land and water areas and facilities.” This law requires each state to prepare an acceptable comprehensive outdoor plan before acquisition and development projects are considered.

The Governor of Idaho has designated the current Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation director, who is secretary and ex-official member to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board, as the State Liaison Officer (SLO) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program in Idaho. As officer to the board, the director guides the development and implementation of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in accordance with provisions of Idaho Code.

Purpose

The Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP) provides a contemporary assessment of outdoor recreation and tourism in Idaho. In consultation with the SCORTP Task Force, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation determines how public, private and independent institutions might meet their needs within the constraints of the state’s social, economic and natural resources.

While SCORTP is the most comprehensive source of information on outdoor recreation and tourism in Idaho and will be useful in the decision making needs of a variety of providers, it is not a site specific plan nor does it attempt to address or solve every issue facing Idaho’s recreation and tourism delivery system. SCORTP identifies existing resources and systems, general outdoor recreation and tourism participation patterns and trends, issues and problems and provides recommendations for strategic solutions to those problems. Local and regional planning, research and cooperation are strongly encouraged to complement the information contained in SCORTP in order to satisfy the outdoor recreation and tourism needs of Idaho.

Production of the Plan

Staff from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review section produce the plan and provide analysis. Agreements on goals and strategies are reached by consensus among SCORTP Task Force partners. SCORTP provides an integrated assessment of recreation and tourism for the state and, at the policy level, a plan outlining goals and strategies to guide the coordination of efforts to provide and market sustainable high quality recreation and tourism opportunities in Idaho. Development of the plan is based on the best available scientific data and the ongoing experiences of partners.

The SCORTP Task Force

Participation in the planning process is open to any government entity, business or nongovernmental organization involved in the provision of or the monitoring of impacts from recreation and tourism development. This policy level assessment and planning process is carried out on a volunteer basis by a mixed partnership consisting of individuals from government agencies, private sector businesses and other non-governmental organizations involved in the recreation and tourism industry. Each participant makes other partners aware of the recreation and tourism issues and concerns, opportunities and initiatives and the mission and mandates to which their sector responds.

Task Force members participating in the production of this plan include:

**Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
US Forest Service
National Park Service
Idaho Association of Counties
Association of Idaho Cities
Idaho RV/Campground Owners Association
Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho Department of Transportation
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Idaho State Historical Society
Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
Idaho Recreation and Park Association
Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative
Idaho Commission on the Arts**

Here We Have Idaho

Idaho is a state with great natural diversity. Many different environments owe their existence to the topographical and climactic variations of the state—elevations that range from 710 feet above sea level at Lewiston, to 12,655 feet at Mt. Borah; local climates that vary from mild to severe; landforms that include high deserts, rugged canyons, verdant prairies, lush valleys, fertile plains and thickly forested mountains. This wide natural diversity drives patterns of human distribution and land use and contributes directly to the nature and distribution of the recreation and tourism.

Geographic Descriptions

Idaho can be divided into four physiographic provinces. The Northern Rocky Mountain Province includes the forested mountain ranges that cover most of northern and central Idaho north of the Snake River plain. Characterized by deep valleys and massive mountains ranging to more than 12,000 feet, this province is so extensive and rugged that much of it has escaped the development pressures affecting the more accessible areas of the state. The area's history of resource dependence resulted in a network of backcountry roads and trails, well suited to today's trail based recreation needs. Several large lakes—Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene and Priest—and numerous rivers, add to the diversity. It is here, too, that the majority of Idaho's untrammeled Wilderness Areas and designated Wild and Scenic rivers lie.

The Columbia Intermontane Province starts at the outflow of the Snake River near Lewiston and follows the Snake along Idaho's western border before extending east across the southern part of the state. This province is part of a huge basalt plateau formed from ancient lava flows. It is here that the heart of Idaho's rich agricultural industry is found, from the rich volcanic loess of the Palouse to the fertile irrigated Snake River plain in the south. This area is also home to over half the state's people and much of its industry and commerce.

Through time the erosive effects of a myriad of natural actions have modified the Columbia Intermontane province so that six distinctive areas can now be identified within it. The Palouse Hills lie north of the Clearwater River, stretching to just south of Coeur d'Alene. South of this lies the Tri-state Uplands of the Camas Prairie with its characteristic rolling hills dissected by canyons. The Wallowa-Seven Devils section includes the rugged mountains and canyons carved by the lower Snake and Salmon rivers along the border with Oregon. The Malheur-Boise-King section extends west of Bliss along the Snake River to the Oregon border, while the Eastern Snake section extends east and northeast from Bliss to the Yellowstone complex. The Owyhee Uplands, a high plateau south of the Malheur-Boise-King area occupies the southwestern corner of the state.

The Middle Rocky Mountain Province extends along the southeastern border of Idaho. Elevations range between 5,000 and 9,000 feet and the typical landform is of distinct mountain ranges separated by broad, open valleys. Bordering the tourism-rich Yellowstone-Teton complex, this area is beginning to emerge as one of Idaho's quality outdoor playgrounds, where people go to get away from the crowds so characteristic of its more popular neighbors.

The Basin and Range Province occupies a small area in Idaho, south of the Snake River, between the Columbia Intermontane province and the Middle Rockies. This is an area covered by sage plains, grassy plateaus and groves of small trees growing along gulches and valley bottoms. Peaks range from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Only a few isolated communities are found here and many of its attractions are small, remote and unspoiled.



Land Ownership

Statewide there are about 20.6 million acres of forest land, 22 million acres of range land, 8.7 million acres of cropland and 2.6 million acres devoted to other uses. Some counties are entirely forested with little or no grazing or croplands, while others are essentially treeless and used only for grazing or as cropland.

Land ownership of Idaho's 53 million acres shows the strong influence of the physical characteristics of the state.

IDAHO LAND OWNERSHIP (in acres)										
Region	U.S. Forest Service	U.S. Bureau of Land Mgmt	U.S. Dept of Energy INEEL*	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	U.S. Air Force	National Park Service	U.S. Corps of Engineers	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Agricultural Research Service	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Region I										
Benewah	35,291	13,596	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonner	472,575	11,162	0	0	0	0	8,856	0	0	0
Boundary	490,803	4,416	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kootenai	243,441	10,349	0	46	0	0	440	0	0	0
Shoshone	1,199,012	56,641	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2,441,122	96,164	0	46	0	0	9,296	0	0	0
Region II										
Clearwater	802,424	11,733	0	0	0	0	27,598	0	0	0
Idaho	4,430,154	91,808	0	0	0	1,298	0	125	0	0
Latah	112,555	236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	10	8,094	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nez Perce	1,700	30,540	0	0	0	76	1,455	0	0	0
TOTALS	5,346,843	142,411	0	0	0	1,374	29,053	125	0	0
Region III										
Ada	3,724	190,701	0	112	0	0	2,096	0	0	0
Adams	511,034	54,032	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boise	867,368	30,697	0	1,280	0	0	1,195	0	0	0
Canyon	0	9,726	0	9,779	0	0	0	981	0	0
Elmore	791,105	529,233	0	0	6,319	0	384	0	0	0
Gem	60,968	71,884	0	2,157	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owyhee	0	3,612,027	0	0	115,101	0	0	27	0	0
Payette	0	66,052	0	84	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley	2,030,789	3,133	0	29,242	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	123,753	220,515	0	936	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4,388,741	4,788,000	0	43,590	0	0	3,675	1,008	0	0
Region IV										
Blaine	491,138	802,694	0	5,083	0	13,587	0	2,304	0	0
Camas	323,546	122,330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cassia	387,053	516,060	0	12,653	0	9,184	0	200	0	0
Gooding	0	237,129	0	320	0	54	0	0	0	0
Jerome	0	84,382	0	12,128	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	582,912	0	1,574	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minidoka	0	165,480	0	9,169	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twin Falls	92,655	543,946	0	0	0	3,788	0	0	10	0
TOTALS	1,294,392	3,054,933	0	40,927	0	26,613	0	2,504	10	0
Region V										
Bannock	118,995	82,529	0	12,712	0	0	0	0	0	7,166
Bear Lake	229,978	41,038	0	0	0	0	0	16,978	0	0
Bingham	0	299,472	64,946	15,399	0	0	0	0	0	12,667
Caribou	375,487	70,375	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,917
Franklin	121,661	15,493	0	2,101	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oneida	139,197	270,108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Power	36,047	228,487	0	24,463	0	0	0	360	0	10,882
TOTALS	1,021,365	1,007,502	64,946	54,675	0	0	0	17,338	0	32,632
Region VI										
Bonneville	482,967	85,638	7,090	47,407	0	0	0	43	0	0
Butte	271,062	577,149	342,393	0	0	39,302	0	0	0	0
Clark	359,419	341,858	13,313	0	0	0	0	0	33,100	0
Custer	2,123,710	813,965	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fremont	525,866	141,969	0	8,700	0	31,488	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	1	186,832	141,393	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lemhi	2,073,315	574,943	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	41,460	19,037	0	3,022	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teton	88,013	6,080	0	1,038	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	5,965,813	2,747,471	504,188	60,167	0	70,790	0	43	33,100	0
STATE TOTALS	20,458,276	11,836,481	569,134	199,405	121,420	98,777	42,024	21,018	33,110	32,632

*Totals may not add due to rounding

Table developed by the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor

IDAHO LAND OWNERSHIP											
(in acres)											
Region	State Endowment	Idaho Fish & Game	Idaho Parks and Recreation	University of Idaho Regent	County	Municipal	Tribal*	Total Private**	Total Federal Land	Total State Land	Total Land
Region I											
Benewah	49,594	2,723	8,297	0	1,875	14	8,339	385,250	48,887	60,614	496,640
Bonner	167,640	1,415	803	195	4,521	4,117	0	440,780	492,593	170,053	1,112,064
Boundary	104,717	2,550	0	0	1,418	72	18	208,056	495,219	107,267	812,032
Kootenai	33,990	6,827	2,871	80	3,677	250	12,929	494,957	254,276	43,768	796,928
Shoshone	56,794	12	0	80	3,059	96	0	370,066	1,255,653	56,886	1,685,760
TOTALS	412,735	13,527	11,971	355	14,550	4,549	21,286	1,899,109	2,546,628	438,588	4,903,424
Region II											
Clearwater	234,391	377	0	0	1,809	430	7,325	496,662	841,755	234,768	1,575,424
Idaho	74,573	1,075	0	0	4,900	334	5,101	826,261	4,523,385	75,648	5,430,528
Latah	29,027	296	3,186	7,374	3,679	40	0	532,695	112,791	39,883	689,088
Lewis	2,019	4,569	0	0	4	6	16,288	291,922	8,104	6,588	306,624
Nez Perce	11,562	72,383	0	120	4,111	725	7,695	420,752	33,771	84,065	543,424
TOTALS	351,572	78,700	3,186	7,494	14,503	1,535	36,409	2,568,292	5,519,806	440,952	8,545,088
Region III											
Ada	36,944	9,195	1,057	71	5,270	2,493	0	423,537	196,633	47,267	675,200
Adams	37,485	27	17	0	2,239	1	0	268,573	565,066	37,529	873,408
Boise	85,648	3,123	0	0	960	7	0	227,322	900,540	88,771	1,217,600
Canyon	738	1,968	0	194	365	485	0	353,236	20,486	2,900	377,472
Elmore	113,126	6,716	513	0	18	24	0	522,354	1,327,041	120,355	1,969,792
Gem	20,091	234	0	0	1,735	170	0	202,825	135,009	20,325	360,064
Owyhee	321,693	1,139	4,640	0	1,676	35	145,545	857,838	3,727,155	327,472	4,914,176
Payette	7,842	782	0	0	1,860	320	0	183,860	66,136	8,624	260,800
Valley	64,268	1,914	1,298	65	2,180	8	0	221,151	2,063,164	67,545	2,354,048
Washington	62,290	9,672	0	0	2,920	195	0	511,815	345,204	71,962	932,096
TOTALS	750,125	34,770	7,525	330	19,223	3,738	145,545	3,772,511	9,346,434	792,750	13,934,656
Region IV											
Blaine	59,240	1,189	0	0	4,000	1,000	0	312,501	1,314,806	60,429	1,692,736
Camas	21,962	2,854	0	0	2,320	7	0	214,981	445,876	24,816	688,000
Cassia	50,129	901	640	0	1,800	596	0	663,408	925,150	51,670	1,642,624
Gooding	17,119	2,274	731	0	750	97	0	209,238	237,503	20,124	467,712
Jerome	7,591	360	0	0	2,503	17	0	276,955	96,510	7,951	383,936
Lincoln	22,251	120	480	0	110	37	0	164,100	584,486	22,851	771,584
Minidoka	7,661	59	0	0	3,285	113	0	300,441	174,649	7,720	486,208
Twin Falls	29,453	243	493	120	1,850	1,382	0	558,124	640,399	30,309	1,232,064
TOTALS	215,406	8,000	2,344	120	16,618	3,249	0	2,699,748	4,419,379	225,870	7,364,864
Region V											
Bannock	44,281	3,305	0	0	4,900	7,000	49,182	431,560	221,402	47,586	712,448
Bear Lake	15,427	2,671	966	0	45	78	0	314,515	287,994	19,064	621,696
Bingham	153,893	1,926	0	379	5,480	354	118,425	786,156	392,484	156,198	1,340,672
Caribou	110,634	1,944	0	0	2,700	120	16,606	567,127	447,779	112,578	1,130,304
Franklin	13,254	5	0	0	10	30	0	273,366	139,255	13,259	425,920
Oneida	13,007	0	0	0	31	10	0	345,903	409,305	13,007	768,256
Power	26,004	120	566	0	2,900	335	76,624	569,484	300,239	26,690	899,648
TOTALS	376,500	9,971	1,532	379	16,066	7,927	260,837	3,288,111	2,198,458	388,382	5,898,944
Region VI											
Bonneville	45,062	8,632	0	0	4,350	1,597	0	513,118	623,145	53,694	1,195,904
Butte	13,248	4	0	0	2,360	27	0	183,511	1,229,906	13,252	1,429,056
Clark	79,128	173	0	0	1,600	4	0	300,813	747,690	79,301	1,129,408
Custer	52,626	1,253	22	0	2,300	5	0	158,503	2,937,675	53,901	3,152,384
Fremont	85,659	18,342	11,826	0	486	100	0	370,316	708,023	115,827	1,194,752
Jefferson	15,813	13,216	0	0	395	47	0	343,168	328,226	29,029	700,864
Lemhi	37,267	562	0	0	1,800	76	0	233,189	2,648,258	37,829	2,921,152
Madison	22,095	145	0	0	1,860	112	0	214,093	63,519	22,240	301,824
Teton	1,169	475	0	0	200	6	0	191,275	95,131	1,644	288,256
TOTALS	352,067	42,802	11,848	0	15,351	1,974	0	2,507,986	9,381,572	406,717	12,313,600
STATE TOTALS	2,458,405	187,769	38,407	8,679	96,311	22,972	464,077	16,735,756	33,412,277	2,693,260	52,960,576

State Land=5.1%
Federal Land=63.1%

County/Municipal=0.2%
Private Land=31.6%

*Tribal land is included in private
**Private land totals include public road and highway rights-of-way

Public Involvement in the SCORTP Process

Public Involvement Meetings

Beginning in the spring of 2004 IDPR's Comprehensive Planning staff visited all 44 counties in Idaho and conducted public involvement meetings for SCORTP. The purpose of the meetings was to identify issues and recreational trends so that we could better design our statewide outdoor recreation needs assessment survey. We had 304 people provide us with comments.

Recreation Provider Focus Groups

In addition, IDPR conducted eight regional focus group sessions with outdoor recreation providers. Again, these were primarily designed to help identify issues and trends for development of the needs assessment survey. One of the questions we asked each group was, "If you could identify one thing that would have the most impact on outdoor recreation, what would it be?" Following is the ranked list from those sessions.

1. IDPR should assume a leadership role in creating a statewide multi-land management agency partnership in recreation planning, focusing on regional recreation management
2. Give issues related to the funding and staffing of recreation a higher profile
3. Increase/improve public access to water recreation, and access to public lands for recreation purposes
4. Create educational/information programs on ethical OHV trail use, and support the launching of a more general national campaign to educate the general public on the land use ethic
5. A more aggressive marketing of the benefits of outdoor recreation to both patrons and decision makers is needed
6. Preserve open spaces that are accessible to the public and available for organized activities
7. IDPR should coordinate the development of operational guidelines for trails from a regional perspective
8. Manage reservoir storage more effectively
9. Studies on the economic impact of recreation on Idaho are a priority need
10. Develop riparian greenways
11. Design simple, updated, inclusive recreation maps for all land management agency areas
12. Create close-to-home, mid-level skill trail systems to improve community connectivity

Statewide Needs Assessment Survey

Methodology

In 2002 the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a statewide survey to assess outdoor recreation needs and gather opinions on a number of issues related to outdoor recreation in Idaho. The agency received enough valid responses (1015) for a confidence level of 99 percent, with a confidence interval of 4.05. While that level of confidence was more than adequate on a statewide survey, we did not receive enough responses from any single region of the state to provide statistically valid results on that level.

As a resource for city, county and recreation district staff, a needs assessment survey is of increasing value the closer it gets to home. Ideally, for instance, a county park and recreation program wants to know the needs of the citizens of that county and, perhaps, adjoining counties. Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review staff set out to design a cost effective survey that would provide statistically valid results at the lowest possible level. Initially, it was our hope to be able to provide analysis on the county level for each of Idaho's 44 counties. To do that would require sending out nearly 50,000 surveys, a prohibitive number because of mailing costs.

Given the resources available, IDPR decided to aim for statistically valid results from each of the six planning regions in Idaho. Even so, traditional survey methods would dictate that we mail around 3,000 surveys per region, or 18,000 surveys. We still needed a more cost effective way of conducting the survey.

IDPR had experimented with Internet surveys in the past and come to the same conclusion most researchers have: web survey results cannot be generalized to the population as a whole. Respondents are usually self-selected, demographically dissimilar to the general population, and biased toward high tech. Still, we like the speed and cost effectiveness of such surveys. We decided to combine the advantage of a randomly selected mailing list with the advantages of Internet responses.

In September and October of 2004 IDPR tested a variety of ways of increasing survey response rates, finally settling on offering respondents an annual parks pass for completing the survey.

In November, the agency mailed 18,000 query cards to Idaho addresses randomly selected by region. Recipients were asked if they would be interested in participating in the statewide survey. Those who were interested had their choice of tearing off a bar-coded card and simply dropping it in the mail, or going immediately to a web page where they could enter the unique password printed on the card, and begin taking the survey. The web survey allowed only one login per password and only one per IP address.

A total of 1,234 chose to complete the survey on line and were successful in doing so. Perhaps 200 more would have done so, but their passwords would not work. This came about because not enough passwords had been loaded into the system for high population counties. Twelve hundred unique passwords for every county were loaded into the system. Staff assumed this would be enough, not taking into account the impact a

high population county would have on randomization in a region. Fortunately, most who had password problems contacted staff by email and were given new, unique passwords. For about 25 potential respondents, this solution did not work. They were permanently blocked from taking the survey by server. Those unfortunate few were encouraged to drop their cards in the mail to receive a printed survey.

It is important to note that when staff received cards requesting paper surveys, the corresponding password printed on that card was checked to see if it had been used, then removed from the web survey's password list, thus substantially reducing the possibility someone could take the survey twice, once by mail and once on the Internet.

Those who responded positively by dropping their bar-coded cards in the mail received a sixteen-page survey and a coupon for a day-use passport to Idaho's state parks. We received 1,080 usable surveys by mail, bringing the total response count for the survey to 2,314 statewide.

While that response rate is relatively low (13 percent), it was not unexpected. In order to bring costs down, we chose to contact potential respondents no more than twice, once with the initial query and again if they responded favorably to that query. A typical survey scenario would have us send a letter introducing the survey, then sending the survey itself, followed by one or more reminders for those who failed to respond. Under that scenario we would have assumed the cost of printing and mailing 18,000 letters and 18,000 16-page surveys, followed by a substantial number of reminders. With this method we sent 18,000 cards, paid business reply rates on about 1,500 responses, then mailed out only 1,500 surveys.

Our goal was to get a response rate from each region that would give us

Region	July 1, 2003 Estimated Population	Valid Responses	Confidence Level	Confidence Interval
1	188,838	341	95%	+ or - 5.3
2	100,348	336	95%	+ or - 5.3
3	582,467	330	95%	+ or - 5.4
4	167,444	391	95%	+ or - 4.95
5	155,393	319	95%	+ or - 5.5
6	171,842	273	95%	+ or - 5.9
Statewide	1,366,322	2314*	95%	+ or - 2.04

*While there were 2,314 valid responses statewide, only 1990 could be identified by region because of the failure of respondents to include their zip code.

Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives



IDAHO

Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives

The extensive public process used for the 2006-2010 SCORTP, described in the previous section, led the SCORTP Task Force to a number of conclusions regarding outdoor recreation needs in Idaho. Idahoans are worried about continued access to recreation sites, especially on public land. They want to protect water quality and they are concerned about invasive species. Idahoans strongly support natural resource and recreation safety education. They want connecting pathways and close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities.

With dwindling resources available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Task Force members recognized that making substantial progress on these issues and opportunities will mean that Idaho will first need to find new sources of funding. The outdoor recreation professionals on the Task Force also identified emerging issues that are yet to catch the attention of much of the recreating public, i.e., the closing window of opportunity many communities in Idaho have to acquire land for parks, open space and community pathways, and the growing need for opportunities to increase the physical fitness of residents.

In order to address the identified needs, the SCORTP Task Force developed the following goals and objectives for local, state and federal outdoor recreation providers in Idaho for the next five years.

1) Provide enhanced outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities through funding that aligns with demand

- Improve the LWCF Open Project Selection process to assure needs are recognized
- Institutionalize GIS in the Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory
- Recognize the importance of undeveloped recreation opportunities
- Conduct regular outdoor recreation needs assessments at the lowest service level funding permits
- Develop new opportunities for public involvement through Internet access and public meetings
- Maintain the “Recreation Next” website to assure planners and land managers are aware of emerging outdoor recreation activities

- Through IRTI or IRPA, create a funding workgroup
- Identify a funding source to implement the STORE program in Idaho
- Identify a dedicated source of funding for nonmotorized recreation
- Work with the Idaho Recreation and Parks Association, cities, counties, NGOs and the education community to develop a STORE funding package for presentation to the Idaho Legislature.
- Work with Idaho's Congressional Delegation to rebuild funding for community recreation
- Seek to build consensus among non-motorized recreationists to identify funding sources for their development, maintenance and management needs on public lands

2) Assure that the public has the best possible access to public lands for outdoor recreation

- Diligently pursue the acquisition, preservation and development of urban open space, parks, trails and corridors
- Sponsor a series of regional forums on the subject to encourage planning and public participation
- Develop a web-based toolkit for elected officials, planners and community activists. Resource tools could include:
 - Forming a recreation district
 - Securing conservation and recreation access easements
 - Best practices for planners
 - Acquisition of development rights
 - Accepting donations
 - Developing planning and zoning ordinances
 - Applying for grants
- Identify and develop strategies to maintain appropriate public access to corridors through programs such as the Federal Side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Rails to Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation and Public Purposes, and Scenic Byways
- Implement and maintain education and information programs describing appropriate corridor activities, and promoting ethics and stewardship, while emphasizing the link between ethical behavior and continued access

- Assure that access is reasonably convenient
- Develop strategies for better law enforcement on public lands
- Support continued funding for Idaho Fish and Game's "Access Yes!" program
- Strengthen our partnership with the Idaho Association of Counties and the Association of Idaho Cities so that access issues are considered in comprehensive planning
- Consider the impacts exchanges of public land may have on access
- Encourage noise reduction techniques in developed recreation planning so as to preserve the greatest possible access for all recreationists
- Encourage outdoor recreation providers to develop criteria for evaluating and prioritizing access needs and opportunities within their purview
- Recognize that signs, maps, brochures and other information dissemination methods can hinder or enhance access depending on their availability and design
- While protecting access, recognize that there are limits on the number of recreationists and types of recreation our finite public lands can accommodate
- Develop a new vehicle to provide the public with updated, map-based information on access

3) Recognize that water is an increasingly precious resource

- Protect water quality
- Educate recreationists about what they can do to protect the resource
- Fund RV dump stations in areas where they are lacking
- Encourage alternative (non-formaldehyde) RV dump station chemicals
- Provide marine pump-out stations where needed
- Design facilities to decrease runoff pollution
- Continue to operate outdoor recreation facilities within state and federal water quality regulations
- Protect water quantity

- Assure that agency consumptive water rights are legally protected
- Implement water saving techniques in planning and design
- Educate recreationists in water saving techniques
- Monitor and document water quantity as appropriate to track trends
- Seek to protect surface water through instream flows for recreation, aesthetics and species protection
- Closely monitor Snake River Adjudication to assure recreationists needs are considered

4) Develop a unified strategy for delivering outdoor recreation education to the public

- Designate the existing IRTI multi-agency education workgroup as the lead entity to accomplish this task
- Develop appropriate messages for a coordinated media campaign to promote outdoor recreation ethics
- Determine how to work with the educational community to provide teacher training to fit curriculum needs
- Work with NGOs and corporations to develop joint education campaigns for the benefit of public and private land managers
- Focus more resources of existing educational, interpretive and visitor information staff and facilities on providing education about Idaho's natural resources and the interplay of outdoor recreation with those resources
- Continue an education program for residents on the dimensions and importance of recreation and tourism in the State of Idaho
- Identify funding sources for safety and user ethics education efforts for motorized and especially nonmotorized outdoor recreation activities

5) Minimize the impact of invasive species

- Include management plans for invasive species in general land management plans
- Coordinate all invasive species control efforts with the state's lead agency on the subject

- Provide education for recreationists
- Promote certified hay
- Promote clean vehicles
- Promote recognition and reporting of invasive species
- Discourage the introduction of invasive species by the public
- Provide information on control methods and importation of inappropriate species to the public

6) Encourage healthy living through outdoor recreation

- Develop stronger partnerships between outdoor recreation providers and public health agencies
- Identify opportunities to encourage healthy living when planning and implementing outdoor recreation programs and developing facilities
- Develop special events to promote healthy activities
- Work with public health agencies to produce educational materials on the topic

7) Recognize the importance of transportation in planning projects

- Encourage alternative transportation systems such as community pathways, bicycle, rail and mass transportation services.
- Improve surface transportation routes connecting communities with nearby recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Maintain Scenic Byways for safe and pleasurable use while not diminishing the characteristics for which the Byway was established.
- Research best practices in planning for human scale transportation and make those practices available to planners and decision makers statewide.
- Encourage the use of context sensitive design in transportation projects

Evaluation of the 2003-2007 SCORTP



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Evaluation of the 2003-2007 SCORTP

The 2003-2007 Idaho SCORTP featured a program evaluation of previous statewide planning efforts. Recommendations from the evaluation included the establishment of consistency in the planning process, development of interim measures, an evaluation of the achievement of goals, improved outdoor recreation research, the establishment of outdoor recreation databases, and the development of an Internet presence for Idaho's SCORTP. Here, one by one, is a look at what we accomplished and what is left to be done.

Consistency

There has been a lack of commonality from plan to plan over the years. Each plan seemed to have been developed largely from the ground up, with little or no recognition that another plan had gone before it.

As evidenced by this exercise, the current plan not only recognizes that previous plans exist, but it also evaluates the success of that previous plan. We are using the document evaluation table suggested in the program evaluation, and we have developed a template of elements to be included in each plan.

Interim Measures

An annual review of progress on SCORTP goals and objectives is now a routine duty of the SCORTP Task Force. This keeps the goals in front of the group and brings more awareness of what individual agencies are doing to meet those goals. Still, the system could use improvement. There is no shortage of accomplishments to list that fit into a goal or objective, but there is little evidence that the goal is actually driving the process. With the publication of this plan we begin using performance measures for each goal. Those measures will help us determine what success will look like ahead of time, rather than finding examples that can be jostled and justified into place after the fact.

Improved Research

This recommendation also became a SCORTP planning goal, discussed below in the evaluation of goal achievement.

Establishment of Outdoor Recreation Databases

As recommended, IDPR now has a richly layered GIS database for its Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory (ORFI). Concurrent with the release of this plan, that database will be available to planners statewide through the Internet. Its value will continue to increase as additional layers become available giving analysts immediate access to spatial data on demographics,

land ownership, orthophotos, and more. IDPR plans to integrate research data with the GIS system so that outdoor recreation needs, trends and opportunities can be spatially represented.

Additionally, databases exist of registration data for boats, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles and recreation vehicles. IDPR's grant programs all now have databases showing where, when and how funds for outdoor recreation were spent. All that information can be analyzed with ORFI on a case-by-case basis today, and should be fully integrated within the next five years. A new visitation database for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is under development. Meanwhile, recreation accident statistics are now compiled annually, and will eventually be moved into a database.

Internet Presence for Idaho's SCORTP

This SCORTP, its predecessor plan and all annual updates are available on the Internet. The site also gives citizens an opportunity to access public comment pages for other state and federal agencies.

Evaluation of Achievement of Goals

Goals are listed in upper and lower case bold face. When appropriate, objectives addressed by the narrative are included in a smaller font, centered above the corresponding text.

Implement a Revised Strategic Planning Process

As detailed in an earlier section, Public Involvement in the SCORTP Process, we did implement a new strategic planning process.

Implement ongoing, reliable and valid outdoor recreation research

Perhaps the area of SCORTP that is most improved is research. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation hired Human Dimensions Research Analyst Frank Achana, PhD. With his background and experience, plus increased education by other Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review staff, IDPR's research capabilities are much enhanced. The agency now has an annual schedule of research it conducts, including regular needs assessments conducted specifically for SCORTP. IDPR regularly works with other agencies to identify research needs statewide.

Conduct regular statewide research on recreation needs

IDPR hired a human dimensions researcher, Francis Achana, PhD, to oversee agency research.

BLM completed visitor surveys at Craters of the Moon National Monument and at two developed recreation sites, Huckleberry Campground and Blackwell Island.

BLM completed a Visitor Use Assessment Project with the University of Montana to determine visitor satisfaction levels in the SRBOPNCA. On the

jointly administered Payette River Fee system, BLM and the USFS assessed visitor satisfaction and demands for services and facilities in 2005 using a combination of registration information, contact with BLM/Forest Service/ volunteer patrols, and public meetings. BLM and USFA also formally coordinate with the local recreation RAC and with permitted river outfitters.

Conduct research on specific user needs and issues.

2003 Fuel use and needs study completed for boats, snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles. Sponsored by ITD and IDPR. Results are available on the Data Center website.

The Bureau of Reclamation completed a draft carrying capacity study for Ririe Reservoir. Ecological, spatial, facility, and social factor were analyzed. This study is available on the Data Center website.

The Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is a participant in a Recreation Assessment project for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) that will produce a report for use by GYE managers (Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges) identifying recreation trends and opportunities.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest completed year 2 of its High Lakes Study in the Bighorn Crag area of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

In 2005, IDPR conducted research on OHV user needs and attitudes. The agency also conducted a recreationist profile survey that addressed frequency of outdoor recreation activities of all kinds. That research will be a part of the 2006-2010 SCORTP. Research on boater needs and the needs of cross-country skiers and snowshoers is planned for 2006.

Conduct regular research at the regional level so that planners can respond to local needs

Outdoor recreation needs assessment research will be complete by the end of the year in all six Idaho regions through an NPS SCORTP Planning Grant.

Each of Idaho's Forests have been going through a 5-year cycle of visitor surveys and monitoring called the National Visitor Use Monitoring program (NVUM).

All of the Idaho National Forests have completed the initial round of visitor surveys. The results of these surveys are now available online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>. The Caribou-Targhee and Sawtooth National Forests are preparing for their 2nd rounds of user surveys in 2005.

The Caribou-Targhee and Sawtooth National Forests have completed their 3rd rounds of user surveys in 2005. The NVUM survey gathers estimates of recreation uses as well as user demographics and satisfaction data. The survey is updated every 5 years.

In 2005, a high lakes study focused largely on user impacts was done in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness in cooperation with Univ. of Arizona.

The University of Idaho and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area completed a monitoring study of boaters experiences on the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

Monitor customer satisfaction with Idaho's recreation and tourism facilities and programs, and make the findings available to all

IRTI conducts an annual survey to gauge customer satisfaction with the VIP pass. Questions related to satisfaction with facilities and programs were included in the ITD/IDPR fuel use study.

IDPR makes visitor satisfaction cards available at all its parks. An annual analysis is done for agency management.

The Bureau of Reclamation is assisting with a recreation economics study of the Upper Snake River from Jackson Hole to Idaho Falls. Nearly 800 surveys were collected during the 2004 field season and will be used to estimate the current net economic value of river recreation. Study results are expected in 2005.

USFS campground fee envelopes include an area on the flap of the envelope for visitor comments and feedback. These comments are considered when planning for improvements in services and/or facilities.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation did a customer satisfaction survey at each park during 2005. The agency plans to conduct similar surveys annually.

Identify methods and protocols for assessing the social, cultural and economic impacts of outdoor recreation and tourism in Idaho

IDPR formed a subcommittee of IRTI consisting of researchers from city, county, state and federal agencies and university researchers. Their goal is to share information about upcoming research and avoid duplication of efforts.

Identify emergent technologies that may impact outdoor recreation

Emergent technologies that may impact outdoor recreation include rock crawling (with ATVs or four-wheel-drives), mountain boarding, night vision gear, and the advent of four-stroke engines in snowmobiles.

Boise Parks and Recreation completed their next 10 year Comprehensive Plan for the department through a series of surveys, public meetings, reviewed of demographics, etc.

Boise Parks and Recreation is currently assessing their youth program offerings and services with relation to Title I schools and other community demographics. This is to assess the cost as well as the value to the community (subsidies).

The Idaho Department of Recreation has created a website, www.recreationnext.com, to help agencies keep track of emerging technology and trends in outdoor recreation. The basis for the site was a list new generation outdoor recreation sports and activities taking place on the public lands developed by the BLM.

Protect Existing Access to Outdoor Recreation

Protecting access and creating new access to outdoor recreation in Idaho is an ongoing task. As such, it is difficult if not impossible to say when that task has been “achieved.” However, it is worth reviewing the major accomplishments SCORTP partners reported in this area from 2003-2005.

Identify and develop strategies to maintain appropriate public access to corridors through programs such as the Federal Side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Rails to Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Scenic Byways

The Forest Service negotiated water rights in the name of the United States for Six Wild and Scenic Rivers in Idaho in the Snake River Adjudication process. These rivers include the Clearwater, Selway, Lochsa, Rapid River, Middle Fork Salmon and main Salmon. Securing these rights will ensure the sustained recreational opportunity that these rivers provide, hundreds of miles of floatable and fishable rivers. Under the same settlement, the Forest Service is receiving decrees for major waters in the Hells canyon NRA in Idaho, excluding the Snake River. Twelve streams are involved and 18 high lakes. This will also ensure continued recreational opportunities into the future.

In 2005, acquisition of an inholding parcel at the Sulphur Creek Ranch in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness was completed by the Forest Service.

IRTI has formed a subcommittee to develop some kind of vehicle (probably a website with related promotional materials) to provide recreationists with reliable information about where they can go and where they cannot on public and private lands. The committee’s work has just begun.

Implement and maintain education and information programs describing appropriate corridor activities, especially trail etiquette

The Forest Service, Fish and Game, City of Boise, BLM, and Idaho Department of Lands negotiate a public/private land swap in the Boise Foothills in order to preserve open space and create recreation corridors.

Boise Parks and Recreation Implemented controlled dog off leash trails (COLTS) program and is Currently developing volunteer patrol system to compliment existing law enforcement efforts.

The Idaho Interagency OHV Coordinating Committee hosted a travel management workshop in 2005. The committee developed a public outreach program to promote the responsible use of OHVs. Through a series of media ads and billboards, the committee promoted the idea that cross country travel by OHVs is inappropriate and that OHVs should be ridden on established or designated roads and trails.

- Maintain Scenic Byways for safe and pleasurable use while not diminishing the characteristics for which the Byway was established.

Protect existing access through recreation easements and purchase of key access sites

Idaho Fish and Game is funding the Access Yes! program primarily through a lottery of special big game tags. The access program was started in 2002 with the goals of rewarding landowners for allowing access to their lands and opening previously blocked public lands. The agency hopes to open or keep open 250,000.

Boise Parks and Recreation secured \$10 Million for local match in LWCF Acquisition funding. They used the fund to purchase easements and access in the Boise Foothills.

The majority of the property along the Clearwater River is in private ownership, making river access a critical issue in the corridor. The BLM has acquired the Harpers Bend property between Kooskia and Lewiston to provide additional recreation access to the river.

In 2005 BLM acquired parcels in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and the South Fork Snake River corridor to protect open space, wildlife habitat, and public access.

At publication time, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and partners were close to acquiring Register Rock and adjacent properties in the City of Rocks National Reserve. This historic and fragile site, where California Trail pioneers painted their names in axle grease, will be in public ownership for the first time and open to recreationists.

In 2005, NPS awarded a grant of \$211,775 to the City of Lewiston to acquire and develop land for Ruth Rowell Modie Wildlife Park. NPS awarded a grant \$97,950 to develop the City of Coeur d'Alene's Northwood Park. NPS awarded a grant of \$45,000 to construct a zero depth splash pad at Meridian's Settlers Park to enhance recreation access for people of all abilities. NPS awarded a grant for \$54,966 to the City of Hailey for development of a new park site, Woodside Central Park.

Research strategies for better law enforcement on public lands

IDPR, IDFG, the US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management in Idaho signed a cooperating agreement to manage the use of motorized, wheeled, off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on public lands within Idaho through the coordinated application of State and Federal practices, policies, laws and regulations governing the operation of OHVs. In 2004 The Idaho Interagency OHV Coordinating Committee (IICC) met seven times. At each meeting, the partner agencies shared and discussed ongoing OHV management issues and initiatives. This coordination was valuable because it greatly increased the understanding of each agency's OHV management concerns, efforts and responsibilities.

The IICC prepared a strategy document titled "An Interagency Framework for OHV Management in Idaho." The strategy outlines a collaborative, multi-agency approach for improving OHV recreation and management in Idaho. It identifies three shared, fundamental goals. It also identifies six management actions that would help achieve the goals, and that

can only be accomplished through a cooperative, interagency effort. The three shared goals are:

1. Provide OHV Opportunities. Designate and manage sustainable OHV trail opportunities to provide a diversity of challenges and experiences throughout Idaho. OHV trail systems should be part of a balanced, overall trail network that provides and preserves recreational opportunities for non-motorized trail users.

2. Promote User Safety and Responsibility. Establish educational and other programs that promote safe and responsible OHV use.

3. Protect Natural, Social, and Economic Resources. Manage OHV use to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to plants, animals, soil and water. Recognize and address potential impacts to people and communities. Rehabilitate redundant and unauthorized routes.

IDPR Comprehensive Planning staff conducted a series of focus groups statewide, stratified by: Users, Conservation Groups, Recreation Providers and Law Enforcement Personnel in order to identify issues regarding OHV law enforcement on public lands and learn areas of agreement. The findings stimulated user groups to write proposed legislation regarding helmet and sound requirements.

Boise Parks and Recreation has updated the Ridge to Rivers Trail map to incorporate new trails and activities. Also, a poster dog campaign with Jeb is helping to educate people on appropriate etiquette on trails with their dogs. New signage is also incorporated into the trail system to help better educate and inform users of appropriate use.

Provide a Full Range of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities that recognize the multiplicity of activities in Idaho

Partner achievements in this ongoing activity included:

Institute demonstration projects where best management practice initiatives can be tested

Boise Parks & Recreation Department and Ridge to Rivers is working in partnership to create “controlled off leash trails” (COLTs) for dog off leash use. They also developed an education component with signage, poster contest, handouts, etc.

Maintain and where necessary, create, expand and diversify trail systems in urban and rural areas to link communities, public and private recreation and tourism opportunities

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare made a *Trails for Health* brochure available to agencies and communities, promoting the development of trails to promote physical activity.

IDPR provided LWCF grants through NPS to: City of Hayden , improvements to Croffoot Park sports fields (\$190,000). City of Lewiston, acquisition and development of a community park with a trail system

(\$178,946). City of Hayden Lake, a picnic shelter and restroom in McCall Park (\$32,500).

The Bureau of Reclamation funded or provided cost share funding for completing the following projects in 2004:

- > American Falls Reservoir – Sportsman’s Park.
- > Accessible picnic shelter, restrooms, and pathways. American Falls Reservoir – Willow Bay.
- > Accessible bathrooms and pathways. Bishop’s Hole – Accessible restroom.
- > Lake Walcott – Accessible rental cabins and pathways.
- > Little Wood Reservoir – 2 accessible campsites, picnic sites, parking and pathways. Montour Campground – Accessible restroom.
- > Ririe Reservoir – Accessible picnic shelter, landscaping and sprinkler system, new swim dock.
- > Snake River below Minidoka Dam – Accessible boat dock.

In 2004, IDPR dedicated the new 73-mile-long Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes. The paved trail provides easy access to memorable Idaho sites for most users capable of riding a bicycle.

Ada County created a new trails position that will work with other entities in providing and connecting trails county-wide.

On the Sawtooth National Forest, the following achievements helped to maintain and expand trail systems for public enjoyment:

- > Fox Creek trailhead construction.
- > Replaced Lost Shirt Gulch trail by extending the Warm Spring Ridge trail #142 with 1.25 miles of new construction down to the Baker Lake trailhead.
- > Rerouted Greenhorn trail #107 and Imperial Gulch trail #155 off private land by constructing 1.1 miles of new trail.
- > Constructed North Heglar Snowmobile parking and toilet.

Volunteers representing the Continental Divide Trail Association (CDTA) spent four days working along a 13-mile segment of the CDT within the BLM Salmon Field Office. Volunteers signed the trail, constructed a new segment of trail to access a critical spring/water source, and reconstructed a spring enclosure to protect water quality.

Boise City Parks and Ridge to Rivers constructed three miles of new trail and identified 14 miles of new trail locations soon to be developed. They also developed a new volunteer ranger program on the trails to help educate and enforce the rules within the Ridge to Rivers Trail System.

Encourage corridor and area management planning that addresses associated services and activities in a cumulative fashion, as opposed to single sites and services

There are 14 Scenic Byways Corridor Management now in place. The goal is to have one in place for each byway. In 2005, the Idaho Transportation Department’s Scenic Byways section was notified that it would receive \$1.2 million, funding seven of eight grants applied for statewide.

The Boise District of the Bureau of Land Management has worked intensively to establish the framework to develop an effective travel management system, including inventorying the existing transportation network in the Owyhee FO (1.3 million acres), Bruneau FO (1.5 million acres), and Snake River Birds of Prey Area NCA (486,000 acres) using a combination of digital orthophoto quad interpretation and ground inventory/GPS work to compile an accurate, complete and geospatially correct electronic inventory of the more than 15,000 miles of routes in the District. During this period, the District has consulted frequently with the public, local governments and Tribes to identify issues and conflicts, correct errors, incorporate new ideas, and in the midst of great controversy, has sought public consensus in preparing for the route designation process.

Address deferred maintenance and seek to provide additional services at appropriate land and water access areas

In 2003, the Bureau of Reclamation completed renovations at Mann Creek Reservoir with assistance from the IDPR RV Grant Fund and the USFS, Reclamation's managing partner for the site. Campground and boat ramp improvements included new picnic tables, fire rings and toilets. A campground re-design allowed for additional camping spurs, improved traffic flow, and accessible facilities.

The Forest Service continued its on-going efforts to reduce deferred maintenance at existing developed recreation sites and on trails as well as to provide new recreation facilities where feasible. Some examples of 2004 accomplishments include:

- Reconstruction of the water systems in the Stoddard Creek, Howard Springs, Warm River, Big Springs, and Willow Flat campgrounds on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.
- Two miles of trail on the Payette National Forest were relocated to enhance resource protection.
- One toilet in Hazard campground was relocated three sites away from the riparian lakeshore as part of the reconstruction of that campground. The site number remained the same but now 9 out of 12 sites are fully accessible with new facilities and tent pads.
- 19 existing water systems at developed recreation sites on the Salmon-Challis National Forest were reconstructed or upgraded.
- Meadow Lake Campground on the Salmon-Challis National Forest was fully reconstructed.
- On the Sawtooth National Forest, the Abbot campground was reconstructed; 2 miles of the Paradise trail were re-constructed; Kelly Creek trail received heavy maintenance; 18 family camping units at Porcupine campground were constructed; Rock Creek water system was re-developed; the Sunny Gulch campground was reconstructed with the addition of 26 new family units and a group facility; and a new toilet, parking enlargement and signing were constructed at the Kelly Creek trailhead.

Installation of an RV dump station at the Fenn Ranger District on the Selway River was begun.

Some examples of 2005 USFS accomplishments include:

- Improvements to Last Chance, Lake Fork, Huckleberry, and Big Flat campgrounds on the Payette National Forest were made. Improvements included replacement of worn out campground furniture and construction of needed storage facilities.
- 2 miles of the Bear Pete trail on the McCall Ranger District were reconstructed and work to construct a new trailhead was begun. Trailhead completion is anticipated in 2006.
- 19 water systems were rehabilitated at 19 existing recreation sites on the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
- Reconstruction of the More's Creek Summit trailhead along State Highway 21 to provide better snowmobile and skier access while improving safety for trailhead users.
- Replacement of deteriorating campground furniture at numerous campgrounds on the Idaho City Ranger District.
- Continuing rehabilitation and re-location work on the Crooked River trail on the Idaho City Ranger District.
- Improvement of the Big Falls portage trail along the South Fork of the Payette River on the Emmett Ranger District.
- Work began to replace the bridge at the Silver Creek Plunge Hot Springs site and to re-design the campground adjacent to the hot springs.
- The Lowman Ranger District continued its efforts to replace old, existing pit toilets with new, accessible, SST model toilets in the Bear Valley area of the Boise National Forest.
- The Stoddard Creek campground water system on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest was replaced with a new well, storage tank, and distribution system.
- A portion of the Lander trail that had been eroded by Stump Creek was reconstructed on the Soda Springs Ranger District.
- Reconstruction work on the Little Granite Creek trail in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area was completed.
- In partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps and the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, three trails within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wilderness that have been physically closed for years due to deferred maintenance needs were re-opened with RAC funding.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest completed work on the new Wagonhammer Springs trailhead which is associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The Boise National Forest is working with Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, SWIMBA, the City of Boise and others to expand and improve access to a system of mountain bicycle trails near Bogus Basin. When complete, this network of trails will further extend Boise's outstanding mountain biking opportunities to meet the growing demand.

The BLM completed Phase 1 of the Mackay Reservoir (Joe T. Fallini) campground renovation. Special attention was paid to developing the site for modern recreational vehicle use and universal accessibility.

IDPR is focusing mitigation efforts in the Avista relicensing process on water access opportunities around Lake Coeur d'Alene.

IDPR requested more than \$16.9 million in its annual budget and in the Experience Idaho Initiative to address its \$20.8 million maintenance backlog.

Assure that outdoor recreation opportunities and issues are fully considered in FERC relicensing

IDPR used SCORP data extensively in its final comments for the draft environmental impact statement for the Hells Canyon Complex.

After 15 years, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved new licenses for five Mid-Snake dams operated by Idaho Power in 2004. IDPR, IDFG and other partners worked on that effort all along the way and will be working with Idaho Power in the future to implement mitigation items for recreation and aesthetics. This means construction of numerous camp grounds, boat ramps, vault toilets, parking lots, and access sites, as well as working on vegetating many areas with more local plant and tree species, and establishing overlooks.

2004 saw a settlement agreement on Bear River for four small hydro dams. Among other mitigation measures, this involves establishing instream flows in the Grace River for the first time in 50 years.

In 2005, the Payette National Forest and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area addressed many recreation activities and interests within Hells Canyon in the FERC re-licensing process for Hells Canyon Dam. The process is still in the negotiation period.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is working on the Buffalo Hydropower project on the Buffalo/Henry's Fork Rivers to provide for recreational access and interpretive signing.

Create an Idaho Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources Education Initiative

Because of budget constraints and a shift in management focus, creating a coordinated education initiative was put on hold. Listed below are partner accomplishments that still support the concept.

Focus more resources of existing educational, interpretive and visitor information staff and facilities on providing education about Idaho's natural resources and the interplay of outdoor recreation with those resource

IDPR requested interpretive and outdoor recreation safety materials be developed and offered to the public as part of the Hells Canyon Complex relicensing.

Boise City Parks and Recreation has included a similar element in the update to their comprehensive plan: "Provide educational opportunities for citizens and recreation users to help better preserve and protect the natural environment." Specifically, the plan called for adding an environmental

education specialist to their staff, developing a wetlands education center and more.

A significant milestone in environmental education was achieved in 2005 in the dedication and opening of the Foothills Learning Center in Boise. This facility will serve as the venue for a variety of environmental education programs available to local school groups and the general public.

IDPR offered two Certified Interpretive Guide classes in 2003 with about 20 park folks in attendance. Larry Mink, the agency's interpretive coordinator, became a Certified Interpretive Trainer and a Certified Interpretive Planner. IDPR also had 16 people attend seasonal interpretive training at Harriman. In 2004, IDPR offered one Certified Interpretive Guide, with 11 attending. The agency also continues to hold annual training for seasonal interpretive personnel. IDPR opened the Hells Gate Discovery Center in Lewiston, offering a significant Lewis and Clark interpretive experience. In addition, approximately 20 wayside interpretive exhibits were constructed within the state parks.

In 2003, IDPR, USFS, BOR, BLM, the Idaho Whitewater Association and Payette River Outfitters jointly produced a Payette River guide called "Wildwater Wisdom" to promote safe practices on the river. The group also produced a web page promoting the same activities. In 2004, the partnership expanded to include the Custer County Sheriff's Office and Lemhi County Waterways Committee in anticipation including the Main Salmon River in future materials. IDPR expects to have two new brochures and signing at river access points through Lemhi and Custer Counties in 2005. In addition, the partners will be adding educational material about paddling safety for children.

Partners produced an ATV/Hunting ethics guide, which is now available on the Data Center site.

An informal group of natural resource education providers now meets quarterly to discuss plans to better initiate education efforts statewide. This group, called Idaho Natural Resource Education Partners (INREP), includes state and federal agency representatives as well as nonprofit and university members.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has focused their existing education programs to meet specific natural resource issues. An example of this is Wildlife Express, a newspaper for students. Although subscription based, the May 2003 issue featured information, including a poster, about West Nile virus. In 2004, other issues addressed mule deer, peregrine falcons and other species.

Schools coming to the MK Nature Center are now provided with specific conservation education programs that correlate with Idaho Dept of education science objectives. In the past, "general tours" were the bulk of nature center programming.

In partnership with Boat U.S. Foundation, IDPR is distributing a series of single subject brochures in both English and Spanish about safety and clean water throughout the south and east regions.

At Heyburn State Park, IDPR now uses the tour boat Idaho to bring people closer to interpretive opportunities on the lake.

In 2005, BLM printed a new Boaters Guide and Map for the Lower Salmon River that includes current maps, interpretive information, boater information, and Leave No Trace river ethics.

BLM coordinated with NPS to produce snowshoe ecology hikes at Craters of the Moon National Monument

In 2005, IDPR continued to put more effort into outdoor recreation safety education. The agency created a position and hired an OHV Education Coordinator. He has begun to develop ATV safety classes. The agency is on the verge of combining information, interpretation and education positions under a new Information and Education section. This move will provide more resources for the effort and help coordinate messages on which the agency and partners choose to focus.

Identify funding sources for safety and user ethics education efforts for motorized and nonmotorized outdoor recreation activities

IDPR brought in “Train the Trainer” instructors from Wisconsin to train volunteer snowmobile safety instructors, Jan. 2003.

IDPR and USFS sponsored three avalanche training classes for winter recreationists, Jan. 2003. In 2004, an avalanche training class was held in Boise and one was scheduled for McCall in January, 2005. Additional classes were held in November and December.

The Leave No Trace organization was identified as a resource in developing educational pieces and as a potential funding source.

Establish a procedure for Idaho sheriffs’ offices to report motorbike, ATV and snowmobile fatalities

IDPR now has an internal procedure to monitor accident reports and collect information for the compilation of annual statistics

Diversify Funding for Outdoor Recreation

This effort is by no means complete, and will be a higher priority in the 2006-2010 SCORTP.

Identify a funding source to implement the STORE program in Idaho to assure funding for community and school recreation facility development and rehabilitation

Under Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne’s leadership, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation developed a funding package for the 2006 Idaho Legislature that will significantly reduce IDPR’s maintenance backlog, as well as provide new opportunities for outdoor recreationists. As proposed, the package would add more than \$34 million in one-time money to IDPR’s budget.



- Research best practices in planning for human scale transportation and make those practices available to planners and decision makers statewide.

Work with the Idaho Recreation and Parks Association, cities, counties, and the education community to develop a STORE funding package for presentation to the Idaho Legislature

As a part of the 2006-2010 SCORTP, IDPR began working with IRPA, Boise State University and other partners to sponsor one or more conferences on Community Open Space, Parks and Connecting Pathways in 2007. It is expected that funding will be one element of potential solutions to related issues.

Promote a Unified Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Marketing Program

This ongoing effort is handled well under the leadership of the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, with regular input from the Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

Coordinate marketing efforts through the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor.

The Department of Commerce and Labor focused their entire media campaign in 2003 on outdoor recreation in Idaho. This included a million dollar print campaign. IRTI received updates on Idaho's marketing plan at each of its quarterly meetings.

Commerce and Labor continued to lead marketing efforts in 2005. Some notable enhancements include a newly created website, idahowhitewatertrail.com, and redesigns of the idahorec.org, idahowinter.org and sledtherockies.org websites.

Through the Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI), continue to seek vehicles for joint information efforts

ESDrake, the marketing agency contracted by Commerce and Labor, sends a representative to all IRTI meetings as a resource and to help coordinate multi-agency efforts.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation website underwent a complete redesign, using the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor contractor, AB Positive. The new site is database oriented, allowing both agencies to make changes and updates to shared databases. The panoply of websites are then updated instantly and concurrently, assuring users seeking information about Idaho outdoor recreation have the latest that is available.

BLM helped support a statewide radio broadcast with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission to address recreation/rancher conflicts.

The Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor 2004 multi-agency Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism, held in Twin Falls, and led the 2005 conference in Idaho Falls.

- Encourage the use of context sensitive design in transportation projects

While reserving a consulting role, partner agencies recognize the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor as the lead agency for statewide outdoor recreation and tourism marketing

The Department of Commerce and Labor Tourism Division spent in excess of \$1.5 million in the promotion of outdoor recreation and tourism in FY-2004, and \$1.7 million in FY-2005. One million was spent on magazine print advertising, featuring outdoor recreation activities and focused on a call to action via the state 1-800 number and website. Another \$500,000 was spent on key word buys on the major search engines such as Google, Yahoo and Overture in FY-2004 and \$700,000 was spent on these efforts in FY-2005. These key word buys include activities such as: hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, etc.

When practical use the Idaho logo in all promotional materials to help build brand identification

Logo used in SCORTP and on 2003, 2004, and 2005 Idaho State Parks Guide

Logo incorporated in Scenic Byway brochures and signing

Logo used on state highway map

Logo used in Experience Idaho Initiative promotion by IDPR

Recognize the Importance of Transportation Planning in Project Development

Partner representatives serve on both ITD's Scenic Byways Committee and its Transportation Enhancement Committee. The committees make grant recommendations the Idaho Transportation Board.

Encourage alternative transportation systems such as community pathways, bicycle, rail and mass transportation services

ITD is mandated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to consider bicycle and pedestrian elements in all federally funded actions. As a result, ITD now installs a separate or abutting pathway for bike/ped traffic in any action where that pathway can connect to, or is likely to connect to, an existing or future pathway. Many bridges in the Idaho roadway system are due for replacement and these are being replaced as budgets allow and on a priority basis depending on the physical condition of the bridge and its ability to meet current height, width and weight requirements. Many of these bridges are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Structures. In coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the National Parks Service, when there is an alternative to place the new bridge in a different location, the existing bridge is repaired and preserved as a bicycle and pedestrian crossing if there is any feasibility of that crossing being part of a current or future pathway.

ITD also works closely with local groups wishing to establish bicycle and pedestrian pathways. When the local entity applies for federal funding,

ITD will oversee the processing of that application through FHWA to guarantee that all social, engineering and environmental concerns are addressed.

The Ada County Highway District has produced a bikepath brochure to encourage alternate transportation.

Boise City Parks and Recreation Improved 15th Street in Boise by connecting trails from 15th St. to the Hulls Gulch Reserve through a conservation easement.

Boise City's new comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan recommends development of a rails-with-trails system along the Union Pacific spur line. The city has acquired 16 miles of active trail to date.

Improve surface transportation routes connecting communities with nearby recreation and tourism opportunities

Roadway connections to outdoor recreation areas have been established by ITD and local highway districts for many years. ITD is continually upgrading these roads and striving to convert all widely used gravel roads to asphalt as budget, environmental concerns and daily use dictate. On roads that are still graveled, ITD may use Magnesium Chloride as a dust inhibitor to reduce the fugitive dust that contributes to the deterioration of some surface waters. The Mag Chloride application may be done through a local highway district and funded through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. ITD recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation to Idaho, and strives to balance highway needs for that purpose with other needs statewide. The agency proactively seeks to learn more about recreation needs by involvement in interagency efforts such as IRTI and the SCORP Task Force. ITD is represented by an environmental planner and the Scenic Byways Program Manager on the latter.

Boise City Parks and Recreation completed two new greenbelt extensions. One is the Garden St. Pathway from Orchard St. to Garden St. and the Garden Street to Main St. Pathway.

The Challis Field Office, BLM, has established, through public meetings and aerial photographs, the verification of roads within the Challis Field Office and is currently contracting out the work required to verify road attributes which had not been previously verified. This contract will provide the dataset and map of all roads within the field office and their associated attributes. All of these efforts will provide us with the information to produce a comprehensive travel management plan.

Over the last 4 years, the Boise District BLM has worked intensively to establish the framework that could result in the establishment of an effective travel management system by inventorying the existing transportation network in the Owyhee Field Office (FO) (1.3 million acres), Bruneau FO (1.5 million acres), and Snake River Birds of Prey Area National Conservation Area (486,000 acres) using a combination of digital orthophoto quad interpretation and ground inventory/GPS work to compile an accurate, complete and geospatially correct electronic inventory of the more than 15,000 miles of routes in the District. During this period, in

meetings, workshops, and casual encounters, we have consulted frequently with the public, local governments and Tribes to identify issues and conflicts, correct errors, and incorporate new ideas.

BLM, in partnership with the State of Idaho and Nez Perce County, improved public safety by rerouting the access to the Clearwater River at the Myrtle Recreation Site along the Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway.

Maintain Scenic Byways for safe and pleasurable use while not diminishing the characteristics for which the Byway was established

Local byways committees monitor local conditions to assure byway characteristics are protected.

In 2004 grants and state match for four Scenic Byway projects were awarded, totaling \$225,000 for the Pioneer Historic Byway, Pend Orielle National Scenic Byway, Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway, and Payette River National Scenic Byway.

In 2005, the program printed 94,000 plus copies of the newly designed “Taking the Scenic Route” Brochure and completed 25 byway logos/signs and 17 4x8 information boards.

Integrate Historic, Cultural and Heritage Opportunities in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Partners made substantial progress on this goal. Projects include:

Include the Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Commission on the Arts, the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho Heritage Trust, Native American tribes and other appropriate organizations in planning and marketing efforts

The Idaho Park and Recreation Board authorized the Chairman of the Board to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of IDPR defining common interests in creating a Cultural Trust that incorporates the various local and statewide cultural, historical, arts and humanities programs into a single consolidated network.

IDPR teamed with the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands and the Eagle Rock Art Museum to sponsor a statewide art competition, Idaho Paints Idaho, featuring artwork depicting scenes in Idaho’s state parks. The artwork was exhibited in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Moscow and Boise in 2004.

A representative from the Idaho State Historical Society is a member of ITD’s Transportation Enhancement Committee.

Two public artworks were sponsored specifically because of their “capital” in the cultural tourism industry: *Terra Firma*, the terrazzo floor medallion at the Boise Airport, was sponsored by the Idaho Department of Commerce. *Flying into the Seasons*, a fabric mural at the Boise Airport, was sponsored by Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber and Visitors Bureau.

Below is a list of public art projects currently in Boise Parks and other projects in public sites that specifically focus on history and promoting Boise.



For a complete list see our website at cityofboise.org or contact us for a map at 433-5674.

Currently there are eleven public art projects in process that are being designed for Boise parks. Each artist is working with the appropriate neighborhood association and community stakeholders to design the artworks. Completion for all eleven is projected to be July 2005.

Examples of what these projects will be include:

- Artist-designed seating in a reading circle at Cassia Park
- Artwork integrated into the Capitol Boulevard redesign
- Welcome to Boise Entrance Signs on Vista and Broadway
- Additional Oregon Trail Kiosks
- Artwork related to the forthcoming statewide memorial for fallen firefighters
- A mural at the Foothills Education Center focusing on wildlife and the natural environment
- Murals on the side of the Borah pool building

In 2005, BLM's Cress Creek Nature Trail was designated as a National Recreation Trail (NRT) this year. The USFO has also installed 16 interpretive signs along the trail which provide information about the natural and cultural resources on and near the trail. The trail is wheelchair accessible to the creek and improvements to the loop trail were completed.

During the summer of 2005, the BLM, Salmon Field Office completed construction and installation of a .3 acre day use recreation facility – Sacajawea Birthplace Site. The facility includes a fenced parking area and displays a 70 year old monument erected in memorial to Sacajawea and her birthplace in the Lemhi Valley of Idaho. The site serves to enhance the historical and cultural significance of Native American Lemhi Tribe and their relationship to the 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition.

Strictly adhere to State Historic Preservation Office rules regarding protection of historic and cultural resources

IDPR signed a cooperative agreement with SHPO and earmarked up to \$250,000 that could be spent documenting, cleaning up and protecting historical and cultural resources, using the Section 106 rules of the Federal Government to protect and manage these resources.

Promote Idaho's historic and cultural resource sites as destination opportunities when appropriate

IDPR has developed a cultural and historic preservation plan identifying key areas within the state that are part of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation system.

O'Farrell Cabin Historic Restoration has been completed by Boise City Parks. The site is listed on the National Historic Register. Interpretive signs for this facility have been completed and installed. Tours can be scheduled through Boise Parks & Recreation Department. Columbian Club is a partner and will provide volunteers to give tours of the facility.

In 2004, IDPR opened the new Hells Gate Discovery Center in



Lewiston, dedicated to providing learning opportunities about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The center also features permanent artwork by artist Rip Caswell.

ITD has funded or scheduled for funding more than \$10 million in historic and cultural projects statewide through the Transportation Enhancement Program. Projects range from a lava beds interpretive trail to the Pioneer Historic Byway Welcome Center.

Boise City Parks and Recreation added the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial along the Greenbelt and placed a Sacagawea monument in Julia Davis Park in front of the Historical Museum. The Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial is the first of its kind in the nation. Citizens from throughout Idaho and the country contributed \$1.8 million to build the memorial. Idaho school children raised the funds to build the bronze statue of Anne Frank. Located in the heart of Boise's cultural district, at the intersection of the Boise Greenbelt and 8th Street, the Memorial is nestled between the Log Cabin Literary Center and the Boise Public Library, across the street from the Idaho Historical Museum and the Boise Art Museum.

Interpretive programs were available from the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District on an as requested basis at Upper and Lower Mesa Falls and Big Springs Inn.

A special event was held in September called "Artifact Road Show Day" in which ISU professionals advised people who brought historic items to Big Falls Inn of their value. This was very popular and was hosted by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Heritage staff.

The Payette National Forest completed an interpretive site at Sheep Rock that overlooks Hells Canyon. The project included construction of a 1/2 mile fully accessible trail to the overlook, interpretive signing along the entire route, one new fully accessible picnic table and restroom at the site entrance, two campsites for overnight use as well as a new full color brochure that describes the site and encourages users to travel on up to view it for themselves.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest continued its partnership with the city of Salmon, Idaho in the continued operation of the Sacajawea Interpretive Center. This center interprets the contribution of Sacajawea to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, along with the history of Lemhi County. It consists of 75 acres on the Lemhi River and has a visitor center, the Meriwether Theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre, outdoor interpretive displays, a replica Mandan garden, and walking trails. The Forest Service provided financial support for a feasibility study, general improvements, and entry signs. The Forest Service also participated in providing technical assistance for the original Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act consultation, design of the Native Plan Garden, construction of information signs, interpretive programs, construction of the nature trail along the Lemhi River, and participation in Sacajawea Heritage Days.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest completed manufacture and partial installation of the following Lewis and Clark interpretive signs:

- one three panel kiosk describing the major L&C Trail, Nez Perce

Trail, wagon road and railroad history of the Leadore area;

- a three panel kiosk at North Fork describing Clark's meeting with the Shoshone, his down river reconnaissance, and L&C opportunities in the North Fork area;
- an interpretive sign about Old Toby and a L&C trailhead orientation panel at Trail Gulch;
- a L&C trailhead orientation panel at Wagonhammer Springs;
- a L&C trailhead orientation panel at Lemhi Pass; and
- a two panel sign describing L&C crossing of Lost Trail Pass.
- Interpretive displays were installed at the new visitor center at the Fenn Ranger Station on the Nez Perce National Forest.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest participated in the Sextants to Satellites Heritage Expedition in which six people paid to spend a week in Salmon learning about the L&C Expedition, the geography of the west in the early 1800s, and how we are presently mapping and protecting the Trail today. Each day is spent on a different section of Trail and different aspect of the Expedition. Two guest speakers from the BLM were involved, while the transportation and food were provided by three different Lemhi County Lewis and Clark outfitters. The website can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/recreation/feedemo/heritage.shtml>

The Sawtooth and Boise National Forests interpreted the history of Bald Mtn./Ketchum/Sun Valley, the Boise and Bogus Basin area as well as local Forest Service history through the Ski with a Ranger interpretation programs at Sun Valley and Bogus Basin ski resorts.

In 2004 IDPR was able to complete the fourth expansion of the Brig Museum at Farragut State Park, and with it the realization of several long-range goals. Through successful volunteer recruitment by Keith Jones we were able to keep the museum open 7 days a week from 9am-5pm, May-September. Our visitation numbers have exceeded any year since the museum opened in 1992.

Though the current displays are oriented to the Naval history, future exhibits will highlight:

- Early settlers and settlement of the Athol, Bayview, Pend Oreille City area 1800's-1940.
- Farragut College and Technical Institute 1946-1948.
- Farragut Wildlife Management Area 1949-1965.
- The roles the Brig has served in since the establishment of the state park including all of the major Scouting encampments.
- The planning and establishment of the Veteran's Memorial Plaza in front of the Brig as a lasting tribute to the veterans of the Farragut Naval Training Station.
- The history of the Pirsch fire engine (to include a covered shed for protection) and the 1938 Ford truck.

Heritage Programs on Idaho National Forests continue to provide opportunities for insight into the cultural history of Idaho through numerous historical recreation sites, special events, and interpretive displays and products. Some examples of 2005 accomplishments include:

- Pamphlets on individual historic sites on the Payette National Forest.
 - Historical interpretive sites at Warren including two self guided trails, and one small museum were available on the Payette National Forest.
 - The Boise National Forest provided opportunities for the public to participate in survey and recordation activities associated with Basque tree carving in a Passports In Time project.
 - The Caribou-Targhee National Forest worked with the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway Advisory Committee to highlight and provide interpretation of historical sites along the byway; offered tours, in conjunction with the BLM, of old mining sites such as Johnny Sack Cabin, during Idaho Archaeology Week.
 - Historical site opportunities were offered by the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area at the Kirkwood Historic Ranch.
- In 2005, the Salmon-Challis National Forest was an active participant in many events and exhibits related to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial:
- A new Lewis and Clark Interpretive exhibit was completed at the Salmon-Challis National Forest headquarters.
 - Custer Days at the Custer Townsite, Land of the Yankee Fork State Historical Park.
 - Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark Bicentennial observance.
 - Two BLM Park Rangers of the Salmon Office of the BLM provided Lewis & Clark interpretive talks from June through September at Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark through an Interagency Agreement.
- One National Park Service Ranger provided Lewis & Clark interpretive talks at Lost Trail Pass Visitor Center and Twin Creeks Campground through an Interagency Agreement.

Continue the Promotion of Outdoor Recreation Partnerships

With a strong organization called the Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative in place, Idaho is well-positioned to take advantage of the synergy created by partnerships. In the past three years, partner agencies participated in, among other projects, the following:

Encourage partnerships with private ventures where public access to recreation opportunities will be enhanced

Winchester Lake State Park routinely works in partnership with the nonprofit Wolf Education Research Center. The entities promote each other on websites and in brochures. Winchester has established a connecting trail to the center.

Hells Gate State Park works closely with jet boat outfitters in Lewiston to afford park visitors access to Hells Canyon.

IRTI partner agencies work with the Idaho RV Campground Owners Association every year to produce a statewide guide to all public and private campgrounds. This is, we believe, the only such effort in the nation. Information from the guide is also available on the state tourism website.

In 2004 Idaho Fish and Game produced 14 Video News Releases about Fishing in Idaho. One network in each major market had agreed to air them weekly as part of their newscasts throughout the summer. One was a Free Fishing Day piece, aired just prior to June 12 . Idaho Fish and Game is working closely with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to revise the state's aquatic education efforts. A new document, based on 11 pieces of research, has been produced to aid all agencies and organizations wishing to reevaluate their aquatic education programs. Entitled Best Practices in Boating, Fishing, and Aquatic Stewardship Education, this document will be used extensively by Idaho Fish and Game. One important component from the document is the necessity for program evaluation. This year we took the first steps to make evaluation part of Free Fishing Day across Idaho.

In 2005, BLM participated in the North Rim Park Advisory Committee organization to bring Federal, State and Local government entities, private landowners, special use interest groups, businesses and interested citizens together for the purpose of developing and planning a multi-use park in the Twin Falls area for the benefit of the Idaho residents and visitors.

BLM Burley Field Office developed an agreement with the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center for the M-C Work Program. The M-C Work Crew, composed of 2-6 people, assists the BLM with cleanup and maintenance work, especially at the Milner Historic/Recreation area.

BLM Upper Snake Field Office has been involved with an interagency fee program on the South Fork since 1997. This is a partnership between the BLM; USFS; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and Bonneville, Madison and Jefferson Counties. The group developed a Facility Use and Parking Fee for 10 sites spread along a 62 mile stretch of the South Fork. The partnership allows for consistent management and maintenance of the ten sites. The partnership also provides for fair value and return for recreation through fee collection by charging the same fee at all 10 sties and through distribution of funds. Regardless of which jurisdictional site funds are collected from, the partners come to consensus on where the money will be spent within the corridor

Use IRTI as a forum for cooperation in reducing the duplication of services and facilities

A sub-committee of IRTI produced 20,000 ATV/Hunting brochures for use by partner agencies.

The VIP Pass program was extended into 2005. This program was initiated in response to a public service need in 2001 and continues to serve as a National example of cooperation of multiple government agencies.

The VIP program was discontinued at the end of the 2005 season, primarily because of changes in the federal fee structure and a lack of use by the public.

Develop a vehicle to provide local governments with information on grant opportunities available for outdoor recreation projects

In 2004 IDPR developed a comprehensive grants manual for local communities and other potential grantees giving detailed information about all of the agency's available grants.

Work with counties, municipalities, and other local public entities to develop new, coordinated outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state

The 2003 Boise City Parks Comprehensive Plan update calls for the department to offer nearby communities technical and professional support for expanding their parks and recreation system. The plan update also directs the department to continue to interact with other municipalities and Ada County regarding development and use of sports fields and facilities. The department is to attempt to secure additional partners to assist with funding the Ridge-to-Rivers Trail Coordinator position, and continue to maintain and foster cooperative working relationships with federal, state and local agencies to find win-win solutions to recreational, land use, transportation and environmental challenges.

Mesa Falls and Big Falls Inn is jointly operated by the Forest Service and Idaho Parks and Recreation. All marketing items are done in both names.

Forest Service Ranger Districts are very active with the local counties in providing successful snowmobile grooming programs as part of winter recreation and tourism programs.

The Forest Service South Fork of the Snake River Fee Demo program has oversight by an advisory group that includes local county commissioners.

The Sawtooth National Forest participated in the construction of a 1.1 mile "Citizen's Trail," in Adams Gulch drainage utilizing entirely volunteer labor.

Adopt-a-Trail programs on many National Forests involve diverse groups and organizations contributing many miles of trail maintenance each year. Good examples include the nine programs on the Ketchum Ranger District that maintained approximately 30 miles of National Forest System trails.

The Forest Service is an active participant in the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Trail Ranger program in which many miles of trail are maintained, improved, and constructed through the joint efforts of both agencies.

The Nature Conservancy is partnering with the Boise Foothills Environmental Learning Center to Provide Educational Programming.

IDPR now has a grants specialist located in each of its regional service centers, Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls.

In 2005, in Council, Idaho, the Forest Service maintained a visitor center that was run by the City of Council - Chamber of Commerce where recreation maps and visitor information can be obtained.

The Forest service works with a variety of partnerships represented by special use permit holders such as ski areas, resorts, recreation event

organizers, and outfitter/guide businesses, throughout Idaho to provide a wide array of recreation opportunities and services to the public that the Forest Service itself cannot provide.

Two BLM Park Rangers of the Salmon Office of the BLM provided Lewis & Clark interpretive talks from June through September at Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark through an Interagency Agreement.

One National Park Service Ranger provided Lewis & Clark interpretive talks at Lost Trail Pass Visitor Center and Twin Creeks Campground through an Interagency Agreement.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is working in partnership with the BLM and Lemhi County Economic Development group to manage and develop the Sacajawea Historic Byway.

A significant partnership was achieved in 2005 in the dedication and opening of the Foothills Learning Center in Boise. This facility will serve as the venue for a variety of environmental education programs available to local school groups and the general public. The partnership includes the Forest Service, the BLM, the Nature Conservancy, the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Idaho Power, Sustainable Idaho, United Water, Water Furnace, and Boise Cascade.

In partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps and the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council, three trails within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wilderness that have been physically closed for years due to deferred maintenance needs were re-opened with RAC funding.

Develop, Maintain and Promote High Quality Fish and Wildlife Recreational Opportunities

Again, this ongoing effort will probably never be finished. Significant partner achievements in the past three years included:

Encourage fish and wildlife management practices that sustain a variety of wildlife dependent recreational opportunities as well as scientific and educational uses

Boise Parks and Recreation partners with Idaho Fish and Game to stock city park irrigation ponds and allows for fishing.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game reports the following annual performance measures: Per sportsman contacts, maintain violation rates at <10%. Check >15% of license holders for regulation compliance. Dedicate >5% of enforcement work hours to preventative public education. Keep sustained public complaints of officer misconduct at a level of <5%.

In addition, Fish and Game has ongoing programs that: Operate fish hatcheries to provide fish for the angling public. Prepare and distribute information to the general public about fishing areas, rules, and techniques for angling. Maintain and enhance quality of fish habitat so natural production of fish can be maintained. Provide access sites and related facilities for boating and fishing public. Provide technical guidance to land

management agencies and private landowners to minimize impacts to aquatic habitats from their activities. Assist in recovery of the rare species through captive rearing projects. Provide input to land management agencies on how fishery resources may be affected by various proposed activities. Conduct periodic surveys of Idaho anglers to determine their preferences and opinions. Provide expertise to departmental information and education specialists and the news media about sport fishing activities.

In 2004, Fish and Game fell back on what it is calling “Plan B” to restore a popular perch fishery at Lake Cascade (80 miles north of Boise.) Prior to 1990, Lake Cascade was the most intensively used sport fishery in Idaho with over 400,000 angler hours, generating approximately \$5.9 million in economic benefit. Fishing effort declined to 74,000 hours after predation by Pike Minnow eliminated yellow perch and reduced salmonid survival. Restoring the fishery is expected to significantly benefit the local economy.

The Department proposed draining and treating the reservoir, but dropped the idea. Instead, Fish and Game personnel trapped and moved 100,000 adult perch from Phillips Reservoir (near Baker City, Oregon) and nearly 40,000 perch from Montpelier Reservoir in eastern Idaho. Stocking efforts will continue for several years, with the idea that these fish will spawn, producing more young yellow perch than can be consumed by the current pikeminnow population. The second half of plan B calls for reducing the number of pikeminnows in Lake Cascade.

Develop educational materials for all ages that explain the role and importance of fish and wildlife in natural ecosystems

As an IRTI project, agencies updated the Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide in 2003. Fish and Game put \$31,000 into the project, with \$15,000 coming from partners. The IRTI Watchable Wildlife Committee oversaw the production of four issues of “Windows on Wildlife” newsletter.

An IRTI subcommittee is developing a statewide Idaho Birding “Trail” in cooperation with local enthusiasts. In 2004, most sites except those in the Salmon and Upper Snake regions were identified and evaluated.

In 2005 Quarterly issues of Windows to Wildlife were distributed. Major topics included: Pygmy rabbits, Sandhill cranes, migration, volunteers, Bald Eagle Days, corvids, Idaho’s CWCS, Osprey, Pronghorn, Eagle Watch Week, Peregrines, Christmas Bird counts. 1429 new subscribers. 3816 total subscribers (157 of which receive newsletter via e mail).

In the development of an Idaho Birding Trail, 200 sites were chosen and statewide-site inventories are being conducted (what birds are there...what facilities are there...seasons for best birding, The final product will be a booklet of maps and sites with short descriptions. Goal for distribution is May 06.

A new Boaters Guide and Map for the Lower Salmon River was published with up-to-date maps, interpretive information, boater information, and Leave No Trace river ethics.

Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative partners sponsored the statewide free fishing day again in 2005. More than 45 events were held

statewide with more than 6,500 participants. Event promotion included Public Service Announcements and stories in

newspapers and on radio and television. The Free Fishing Day event also coincided with an Idaho Fish and Game Department effort to increase angler recruitment and retention. The effort included a number of newspaper stories, direct mail, and paid announcements on radio, television and cable stations in the Southwest and Panhandle Regions. The announcements used material produced by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation for its "Take Me Fishing" campaign.

Seek opportunities to fund non-game activities such as wildlife viewing

The Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide helps fund non-game activities.

Boise City is working with the Ada County Highway District to provide wildlife viewing at the Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve in conjunction with wetlands mitigation needs.

Balance Outdoor Recreation Opportunities with Sensitivity to the Environment

Partner agencies reported the following projects:

Seek to maintain and, when possible, improve Idaho's water quality

The IDPR Clean Vessel project provided marine pump out stations on four bodies of water (Lake Pend Oreille, Lucky Peak, Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the Snake River at Hells Gate) and interpretive panels promoting their use. The sites will be monitored for effectiveness to determine if the program should be expanded.

ITD has drafted a memorandum of understanding between the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality and other agencies to establish a working procedure for implementing compliance techniques for meeting water quality standards during construction and maintenance of Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) projects. The memorandum is awaiting approval. Once approved it will provide ITD with water protection standards for construction projects.

IDPR constructed a new campground at Ponderosa State Park, using many water quality features to protect the lake. The park was also the site of Water Awareness Days educational activities for 60 fifth graders from surrounding communities.

The USFS continues to modify and improve developed recreation facilities to reduce impacts to water quality and sensitive riparian areas. The following examples were some of the numerous accomplishments made by Idaho National Forests in 2004:

- Fencing at the Fir Creek Campground on the Lowman Ranger District of the Boise National Forest to protect riparian areas.
- Aldous Lake Trailhead relocation and reconstruction moved the parking out of a riparian area and added a new toilet facility on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

- Reconstruction of the Allen Mountain/Twin Creeks National Recreation Trail on the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
 - On the Sawtooth National Forest, 1 mile of the Lost Shirt Gulch Trail #212 and 500 feet of Imperial Gulch Trail #155 were closed and rehabilitated; approximately 50 feet of turnpike on a wet/boggy portion of the Red Warrior Trail #152 were constructed; the Pioneer campground toilet was replaced; the Big Peak Trail was re-located; 4 toilets were replaced on the Minidoka Ranger District; and 6 miles fencing for recreation enhancement was constructed.
 - Fences were installed at Pettit Lake boat launch, Pettit Lake campground, and the Sandy Beach boat launch on the Sawtooth National Forest to reduce resource impacts to anadromous fisheries.
 - 26 additional units were added to Sunny Gulch Campground during re-construction to replace units removed from Salmon River Canyon sites for water quality and fisheries protections.
- Some examples of 2005 USFS accomplishments include:
- On the Boise National Forest, work continued on the Black Warrior trail to re-locate segments of the trail from riparian areas to locations that will be of far less impact to aquatic resources.
 - 2 miles of the Bear Pete trail on the McCall Ranger District were reconstructed to reduce resource impacts.
 - The Salmon-Challis National Forest completed design and contract preparation for rehabilitation of 15 recreation sites along the Custer Motorway (Land of the Yankee Fork State Historical Park). Work is scheduled to occur in 2006.

In 2005, BLM's Upper Snake Field Office (USFO) completed construction at Lorenzo Boat Access along the South Fork of the Snake River (South Fork) adjacent to Idaho State Highway 20. The improvements at Lorenzo provide resource protection to the riparian areas adjacent to Lorenzo and implements management decisions identified in management plans for the USFO. The lower portion of the South Fork is starting to receive more recreation use, this facility accommodates for recreation opportunities. The facility also provides access for Madison and Jefferson County Search and Rescue personnel.

Levels and types of use at Idaho's recreation and tourism facilities should be compatible with natural habitats and ecosystems

The Bureau of Reclamation initiated the Teton Resource Management Plan (RMP) in September. The RMP will be a 2-3 year process involving Reclamation, Tribes, other agencies, and the public, and will set a direction for management of the area for the next 10 years.

A Resource Management Plan was completed in July 2004 for Black Canyon Reservoir/Montour Wildlife Management Area.

Progress continues on an RMP for the Minidoka North Side lands near Burley. This RMP includes Lake Walcott and portions of the Snake River. The final environmental assessment for this RMP was completed in mid-November 2004. The RMP is expected to be completed in January of 2005.

Boise Foothills trails have been modified for environmental reasons. Several social trails have been closed to mitigate erosion. Two social trails have been incorporated into the trail system so they could be appropriately managed.

IDPR continued implementation of park resource management plans at Priest Lake, Farragut, Heyburn and McCroskey state parks. The primary purpose of these plans is balance environmental needs with visitor needs.

Develop and maintain programs for the control of invasive plant and animal species

Idaho Fish and Game, IDPR, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service pooled efforts to produce and distribute posters and brochures for recreationists, telling them how to prevent the spread of New Zealand mudsnails. A similar effort took place to spread the word about zebra mussels.

IDPR, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Fish and Game and The Idaho Department of Agriculture joined forces to produce and distribute a West Nile Virus information brochure to recreationists.

IDPR included a comprehensive publication on Mosquitoes of Idaho on the Data Center website, in an effort to help researchers better understand field conditions.

Extensive information regarding noxious weed dissemination and spread through stock use was provided by the USFS for attendees at the Idaho Backcountry Horsemen rendezvous held in Caldwell in June of 2004.

On a number of National Forests, field patrols made numerous contacts with hunters and OHV users to generally educate the public regarding travel regulations as well as weed free hay inspections. At some locations, the Forest Service also provided a weed free hay exchange during hunting season.

Special efforts were made to educate Salmon River users to the threats of noxious weeds through signing and interpretive talks at river launch sites.

Forest Service efforts towards noxious weed education and awareness included signing at trailheads and other locations using a variety of noxious weed awareness posters such as the "Wanted Dead..." posters, weed free hay requirements and Blaine County CWMA noxious weed educational flyers. Aquatic Invasives posters were posted at most Forest Service boat launches.

IDPR's Waterways Improvement Fund provided grants for Eurasian Milfoil eradication.

Funding of statewide invasive weeds plan. Once plan is in place, Idaho will be eligible for matching federal dollars

Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee (IWCC) embarked on a project to design new informational signs to inform the public about the significant problems created by invasive plant and animal species in Idaho. This new signing effort will focus on Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Purple Loosestrife.

IDPR now incorporates weed identification in Trail Ranger training so that rangers can report on infestations as they travel and maintain trails.

Finish migrating Idaho wetland data to computer

NPS SCORTP Planning grant provide for this. It was accomplished in 2005 and is incorporated in this report and available on IDPR and Idaho Fish and Game websites.

**Support and enhance interagency watershed planning
by pooling resources**

The multi-agency Natural Resource Committee is in place to do exactly this.